

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A piston-cylinder unit comprising a cylinder, a piston rod having a section projecting out of said cylinder, said section having an end received through a mounting bearing for connecting the piston-cylinder unit to a support, and a bellows covering said section of said piston rod for protecting said section of said piston rod against at least one of dirt and damage, wherein an unimpeded flow connection is provided in the end of said piston rod, said flow connection being permanently open and communicating freely with an interior space defined in said bellows and freely with the atmosphere such that said flow connection allows a free flow of air between the atmosphere and said interior space when said interior space in said bellows undergoes a change in volume in response to a relative movement between the bearing and the cylinder.
2. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said flow connection in said end of said piston rod comprises a transverse bore leading to the interior space of said bellows and a longitudinal bore proceeding from said transverse bore and opening outside of said bearing opposite said cylinder.
3. (previously presented) The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said end of said piston rod is threadably inserted in said mounting bearing forming a screw joint, said flow connection extending through said screw joint.

4. (previously presented) The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, further comprising an upper attachment part fixed to said bearing, said upper attachment part having a circumferential groove, said bellow having a bead which engages said groove.

5. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said upper attachment part is formed as one piece with said bearing.

6. (original) The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said piston-cylinder unit is one of a hydraulic, hydropneumatic, or pneumatic piston-cylinder unit.

7. (original) The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said piston-cylinder unit is one of a vibration damper and a MacPherson strut for a motor vehicle.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1 wherein the bellows provides the only protection for the piston rod.

10. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1 wherein the bellows is provided with a weep hole.

11. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1 wherein the cylinder comprises a lower attachment part formed with a circumferential groove, said bellows having a bead which engages said groove.

12. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder of claim 11 wherein the bellows comprises a collar which is loaded axially against the cylinder.